

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
OCTOBER 23, 2007

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Julie Aitken, Greg Hoover and Councilmember Starkey (arrived at 6:40 p.m.). Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Vice-Chair Jacque Daniels was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 26, 2007

Mr. Hoover made a motion, seconded by Chair Hurley, to approve the minutes of June 26, 2007. In a voice vote, with Vice-Chair Daniels and Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Batten's Farm Property (tabled from September 25, 2007)

Chair Hurley indicated that at the last meeting, there was not enough information available to discuss the issue and hoped that Councilmember Starkey would be able to provide more information. Councilmember Starkey referred to Councilmember Crowley's comments at the Council meeting that he had his own plans for the Batten's property which did not include what the Board was proposing and he never heard of the Board's proposal prior to the meeting. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky reminded Councilmember Crowley that the Town was trying to preserve the intent of what Batten's had been, which was a produce fresh market type atmosphere. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Council had "pitched" that idea when she and staff attended the Broward County's Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting. She added that Councilmember Crowley was informed that the proposal was a Town-wide effort, and even though the funds might be in one district, Council had to listen to the input that other district members might have in order to get everyone involved in participating. Councilmember Starkey commented that Councilmember Crowley did not indicate what he had in mind for the property and she did not believe in changing the concept now for the property.

Councilmember Starkey commented that she could not discuss the issue with Councilmember Crowley until he was ready to reveal his idea at a Council meeting, and asked if any Boardmembers had contacted Councilmember Crowley on the issue. Mr. Hoover suggested that the item be tabled until Councilmember Starkey was able to get more information to the Board. Councilmember Starkey explained that she did not know how to get information to the Board and suggested that Chair Hurley or a Boardmember contact Councilmember Crowley to inform him of what had been discussed by the Board.

Councilmember Starkey commented that the Town had requested funds from the Land Preservation Advisory and a proposal was submitted with renderings and drawings. She explained that in support of acquiring the property, the Land Preservation Advisory Board asked what the property would be used for and a description was provided to the Board. Ms. Aitken asked if the Town received matching funds with Councilmember Starkey responding that funds were from the Town's bond funds along with matching funds from the County. Ms. Aitken indicated that she was Councilmember Crowley's appointee to this Board and she had contacted him on the Batten's Farm issue; however, she had not received a response. She commented that she did not believe that this Board had made a final motion on the Batten's Farm issue. Councilmember Starkey responded that recommendations were made so that things could move forward to enable the Town to send out a request for proposal for solicitation. She indicated that farming plots were also another proposed idea that had been discussed by the Board.

Ms. Aitken stated that as a member of this Board, she had no idea that there would be a conflict as she was not trying to back one Councilmember over another. Councilmember Starkey stated that it was never her intention to place anyone in that position. She recalled the specific proposal as it was presented at the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting, discussions with Council and the ideas that were proposed for the location. Ms. Aitken asked if additional funds from the County were received because of

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the proposal, with Councilmember Starkey responding in the affirmative. Mr. Hoover asked if maintaining Batten's as a farm was the criteria used by the County to allot additional funds. Councilmember Starkey responded in the negative, adding that the location would have to be maintained as a type of historical site. Mr. Hoover referred to the procurement of funds for the project and questioned whether the plans used to secure these funds had to be maintained. Councilmember Starkey responded in the affirmative. Ms. Aitken asked whether a grant could be withheld if the promises made to acquire the grant were not fulfilled. Councilmember Starkey commented that it depended on how far off the changes were, but she did not know what Councilmember Crowley had in mind for the site. She expressed her frustration at seeing other previously acquired land in disrepair, hence her reason for trying to move forward with the Batten's site.

Councilmember Starkey expressed hope that Boardmembers would meet with Councilmember Crowley to find out what he envisioned for the property. Ms. Aitken questioned whether the final decision depended on the majority vote of Council or on the individual Councilmember because the property was in that person's district. Councilmember Starkey explained that Council's decision weighed heavily on the person in whose district the property was located because of the attachment for their district, and a bit more "leeway" was given in terms of projects. She thought it strange that Councilmember Crowley was not aware of the proposal because each Councilmember had received the information at the same time when Council was prioritizing the properties to move forward to the County. Ms. Aitken asked if there were other properties in District 2 to be purchased with bond money. Councilmember Starkey assumed there would be, but she was not sure. Ms. Aitken commented that it was important to find out what the site was slated for because the language of the bond could not be changed as the bond was not about sports but passive recreation. Councilmember Starkey commented that because of Councilmember Crowley's affiliation with the Water District, she would not be surprised if he preferred to have a body of water at the Batten's location. Ms. Aitken commented that it would be more practical to use the building at the site as it would be more expensive to demolish it.

Councilmember Starkey questioned what the Board wanted to do about the issue. Chair Hurley asked to see the background material for the proposal that was presented to the County. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Mr. Andresky had that information, and she would contact Don Burgess for the minutes of the meeting where the presentation was made. Ms. Aitken suggested extending an invitation to Councilmember Crowley to attend a Board meeting to discuss what he proposed for the Batten's site. There was a brief discussion regarding whether both Councilmembers could attend the same meeting due to Sunshine Law regulations with Councilmember Starkey explaining that the meeting was a public meeting. Ms. Aitken indicated that she would contact Councilmember Crowley to discuss the issue before the Board extended him an invitation.

Ms. Aitken asked if the green market being held by the Town would continue or was this being replaced by the proposed Batten's Farm farmers' market. Councilmember Starkey explained that until a decision was made by Councilmember Crowley concerning the site, the Davie green market would not be completely eliminated. Ms. Aitken asked if there were other sites in Davie where the green market could continue regardless of what happened with the Batten's site. Councilmember Starkey responded in the affirmative.

Chair Hurley asked that along with the information from the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting, the action taken by the Board at the August 28th meeting concerning Batten's Farm be sent to him as well.

Mr. Hoover indicated that he would like to have a map of the Batten's site and explained that he was concerned about the parking area. He added that to take away some of the parking area to use for food stands would create a problem for parking. Chair Hurley agreed and commented that it would be difficult to provide public access and run the operation at the same time.

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Councilmember Starkey spoke on the coffee growing business that was not producing any coffee and questioned how long this would continue to be tolerated by the Town. Ms. Aitken commented that the lessee was “conning the Town as well as other individuals and he appeared to be very good at the game”.

Discussion continued on the coffee growing business and the lease agreement with the Town with Councilmember Starkey indicating that she would like the Board to look into the issue. Chair Hurley asked to see a copy of the lease agreement.

3.2 Review Livestock-at-Large Ordinance

The Board discussed the livestock issue with Ms. Aitken indicating that she thought it was being addressed by Councilmember Luis. Chair Hurley reminded her that it was the carcass issue that Councilmember Luis was addressing. Councilmember Starkey believed that the carcass issue was being “held up” by Town Administrator Gary Shimun. She stated that in a discussion with Mr. Shimun, she was told that the livestock-at-large issue was already being addressed by him and staff. Ms. Aitken indicated that the Councilmember Starkey was discussing live animals but she was referring to dead animals.

Discussion continued on a carcass disposal ordinance with Ms. Aitken posing the question as to why the issue had not been addressed by Council. Ms. Aitken thought that if an item was presented by a Councilmember to the Town Administrator to be placed on the Council agenda, it would be easy to do. Councilmember Starkey commented that it used to be easy. She suggested that Chair Hurley follow-up on the issue with Councilmember Luis.

There was a brief discussion concerning the number of issues such as the agricultural definitions that had been submitted by the Board which have not yielded any results. These issues were still pending and Boardmembers expressed their frustration that the issues have not been resolved.

Chair Hurley referred to the livestock-at-large issue and the hiring of a contractor by the Town, indicating that the State Statute stated that it was the responsibility of the Mayor to hire a contractor. He added that this contractor could also be hired by the Town Administrator. Councilmember Starkey indicated that when she discussed the issue with Mr. Shimun, she was told that the Police Department knew the area and there was no need to enter into an agreement with a contractor.

Councilmember Starkey expressed different options for the pending items submitted by the Board, one of which was discussing the issue at a Council meeting under her comment, indicating that the Board was having difficulty in resolving the pending issues and ask that the items be placed on the next Council agenda. Ms. Aitken asked if Councilmembers could have items added to the Council agenda or if items for the agenda had to go through the Town Administrator. Councilmember Starkey responded that by the Town Charter, items could be placed on the agenda by a Councilmember. She added that the Charter had not changed to allow a resident to have an item added to the agenda. Councilmember Starkey commented that the criteria for the Open Space Advisory Committee had not been added to any agenda for Council’s approval. She indicated that it was important to move things along or all Boardmembers would be wasting their time. Ms. Aitken expressed the opinion that there had to be some change in strategy to have items move forward.

4. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business to discuss.

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6. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following items were suggested for the November meeting:

- Light Containment Issue
- Review Livestock-at-Large Ordinance
- Request for Proposal - Batten Farm Property
- Wagon Wheel Coffee Lease

7. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments or suggestions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member